

Message Text

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AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL KARACHI

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 12005

FOR ZINMAN, TREASURY AND CROWE, STATE

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: TREASURY/CONGRESSIONAL VISIT

REF: A. STATE 282871, B. ISLAMABAD 11985, C. ISLAMABAD 11950

SUMMARY: MISSION PROVIDES BRIEF SUMMARY LINK CANAL PROJECT. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED RE TARBELA VISIT AND APPOINTMENTS FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY GARDNER. CONTINGENCY PLAN SUGGESTED FOR JANUARY 6, IF SUCH SHOULD BECOME NECESSARY. ACTION REQUESTED: CONFIRMATION THAT PROPOSED SCHEDULE IS ACCEPTABLE, NUMBERS OF PEOPLE WHO WILL GO TO TARBELA AND MANGLA AND COMMENTS ON CONTINGENCY SUGGESTION. END SUMMARY.

1. HEREWITH SUMMARY RELINK CANAL PROJECTS

A. LINK CANALS ARE PART OF THE INDUS BASIN PROJECT TO WHICH THE WORLD BANK GROUP HAS COMMITTED OVER DOLS 160 MILLION.

B. THE INDUS WATER TREATY OF 1960 RESOLVED DISPUTE BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN ON THE USE OF WATERS FROM FIVE RIVERS WHICH FLOW THROUGH INDIA INTO PAKISTAN TO JOIN THE INDUS RIVER. HISTORICALLY THESE FIVE RIVERS AND THE INDUS PROVIDED IRRIGATION WATER FOR AGRICULTURAL LANDS OF THE PUNJAB. THE INDUS TREATY

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SANCTIONED INDIA'S DIVERSION OF WATERS OF THREE EASTERN RIVERS

(RAVI, SUTLEJ AND BEAS). IN RETURN, PAKISTAN RECEIVED ASSISTANCE TO CONSTRUCT MANGLA AND TARBELA DAMS TO STORE FLOOD WATERS OF THE JHELUM AND INDUS RIVERS, AND TO BUILD SIX BARRAGES TO DIVERT WATERS OF CHENAB, JHELUM, AND INDUS RIVERS THROUGH EIGHT NEW LINK CANALS WHICH WOULD SUPPLY WATER TO EXISTING EXTENSIVE IRRIGATION SYSTEMS OF THREE EASTERN RIVERS WHOSE WATERS WERE DIVERTED TO INDIA.

C. THE BARRAGES ARE LARGE CONCRETE STRUCTURES WHICH SPAN RIVERS AND CHANNEL THEIR WATERS INTO EXISTING CANALS AND THE NEW LINK CANALS. THEY ARE EQUIPPED WITH SERIES OF GATES WHICH CONTROL RIVER FLOW AND CREATE PONDS TO SUPPLY CANALS. THE INDUS PLANS CALLED FOR TWO BARRAGES ON CHENAB AND ONE EACH ON SUTLEJ, RAVI, JHELUM AND INDUS.

D. THE EIGHT LINK CANALS HAVE TOTAL LENGTH OF 395 MILES. THE CANALS HAD TO CROSS HIGHLY DEVELOPED AREAS, EXISTING IRRIGATION CHANNELS, ROADS, RAILWAYS ETC. THEIR CONSTRUCTION THEREFORE REQUIRED BUILDING OF MORE THAN ONE CROSSING A MILE, OF SUCH STRUCTURES AS RAILROAD BRIDGES AND AQUEDUCTS. IN ADDITION TO THIS, THE CANALS HAD TO BE EXCAVATED, LINED AND FITTED WITH DRAINAGE STRUCTURES AND DEVICES TO KEEP OUT SILT. THE WORK WAS DONE BY MORE THAN 20 CONTRACTORS AND RANGED FROM USE OF THE MOST SOPHISTICATED EXCAVATING MACHINES TO DONKEY LABOR IN DUNE AREAS WHERE MODERN EQUIPMENT WOULD BE DAMAGED BY WIND-BLOWN SAND.

2. WE PROPOSE TO SHOW GROUP A SECTION OF THE QADIRABAD-BALLOKI LINK CANAL WHICH HAS THE CAPACITY OF DIVERTING 18,000 CUBIC FEET PER SECOND FROM THE CHENAB RIVER AT THE NEW QADIRABAD BARRAGE (BUILT AS PART OF INDUS BASIN PROJECT) TO THE RAVI RIVER AT THE EXISTING BALLOKI HEAD WORKS. THE VISIT TO THE FARMS WILL GIVE THE GROUP A VIEW OF IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE IN THE PUNJAB MADE POSSIBLE BY THIS PROJECT.

3. TARBELA VISIT: WE INFORMED TODAY, DEC 28, THAT MOST PROBABLY ABDUL HAFIZ PIRZADA, MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND PROVINCIAL COORDINATION, AND ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE TARBELA COMMITTEE, WILL HOST LUNCHEON AT TARBELA. CONSEQUENTLY GOP HOPES REASONABLE NUMBER SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS OF VISITING PARTY WILL BE AT TARBELA.

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RM SCHEDULE: PLEASE ADVISE IF SCHEDULE PROPOSED REF C IS ACCEPTABLE WE NEED INFORM GOP OF NUMBERS OF PEOPLE WHO WILL VISIT TARBELA AND MANGLA TO ENABLE PLANNING FOR LOGISTICS OF SITE TOURS AND LUNCHEONS. WE NEED INFO TO ASSIST US PLANNING GROUND TRANSPORTATION FOR VISITS TO DAM SITES. LIKEWISE WE NEED TO KNOW PREFERENCE LADIES PER PARA 3B REF B.

5. APPOINTMENTS:

A. APPOINTMENT WITH AZIZ AHMED WILL PROBABLY BE AT 17:30

JANUARY 5.

B. APPOINTMENT 08:00 JANUARY 6 CONFIRMED WITH SECRETARY
GENERAL KAZI FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY GARDNER.

C. GOP ANXIOUS TO KNOW IF PERSONS OTHER THAN DEPUTY
SECRETARY GARDNER PLAN TO ATTEND EITHER MEETING. PLEASE
ADVISE.

6. CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR JANUARY 6.

ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS (HEAVY FOG) ARE A POSSIBILITY IN
RAWALPINDI AND LAHORE AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR. THIS COULD
CAUSE AIRPORTS AT ONE OR BOTH PLACES TO BE INOPERATIVE FOR
HOURS AT A TIME. IT OCCURS TO US THAT SHOULD IT HAPPEN
THAT LAHORE WOULD BE CLOSED ON JANUARY 6, THE GROUP MIGHT
WISH TO FLY DIRECTLY TO KARACHI FOR A PORT VISIT. GOP PREPARED
TO ACCOMMODATE THIS CONTINGENCY SHOULD IT BE NECESSARY AND
DESIRED. PLEASE ADVISE REACTION ASAP.

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